

The Queen Augusta Guards Grenadier Regiment No. 4 in the World Wars

by

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In memory of the fallen,
A warning to the living!

Causes of War and Mobilization.

In June 1914 the regiment marched back to the garrison from camp Döberitz. The hot time began, in which, like every year, only small exercises took place. A large part of the officers and men went on summer vacation.

Then, on June 28, like a bolt from the blue, the news broke that the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne had been murdered in Serayevo.

Until then the army had not had the feeling that the situation in Europe was getting worse; the waves of excitement that had risen around Morocco in 1905 and around Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908 had always calmed down quickly. Now, looking back, one recognizes how the growing strength of Germany in the world naturally aroused the envy of England, and one sees through the encirclement policy of the enemy governments.

It was a good thing that the bulk of the army had no idea of the great diplomatic intrigues; she had nothing to do with politics; She was brought up to be the strong instrument of the fatherland, according to her emperor's wishes, to keep the country at peace. She did her duty quietly and undeterred; she kept the armor of the mighty German Empire bare and the sword sharp, precisely because of this a threatening warning for all opponents.

The murder of the princes at Serayevo demanded atonement; Russia interfered in this purely Austro-Hungarian affair, although the Danube monarchy declared that it would retain no Serbian territory.

All governments seemed anxious to confine the fire to his hearth; but Russia began to mobilize, not only on the Austrian but also on the East Prussian frontier. On July 26, the German government in London, Paris and St. Petersburg drew attention to the impending danger of war. The Russian Minister of War and the Russian General

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Against their better knowledge, the chief of staff gave their word of honor that no mobilization had taken place.

Kaiser Wilhelm suggested mediation in Vienna; he implored the Tsar:

July 31, 2 p.m.

"I have pushed the limits of what is possible in My efforts to maintain world peace. I am not responsible for the disaster that is now threatening the entire civilized world. At this very moment it is in your hands to avert it. Nobody threatens the honor and power of Russia, which could well have waited for the success of my mediation in Vienna. The friendship I received from my grandfather on his deathbed for you and your empire has always been sacred to me, and I stood by Russia faithfully when she was in serious trouble, especially in her last war. The peace of Europe can still be preserved by you if Russia decides to stop the military measures that threaten Germany and Austria-Hungary."

The Tsar replied:

"As long as the negotiations with Austria about Serbia continue, my troops will take no provocative action. I give you My solemn word on that."

But the Tsar had allowed the military party to take the scepter out of his hands: the Russian armaments were being swept away. When the news came that the general mobilization of the Russian army and navy had been ordered, Germany could not hesitate any longer; the enemy's lead was too great: on July 31, His Majesty the Emperor ordered the "state of imminent danger of war."

The tension had risen to the extreme: "Twelve hours have been given, if Russia does not stop its armaments, it will be war!" So announce the special newspapers in the capital of the Reich. Thousands of people move on the streets in the evening, crowded trembling expectation. The purple standard waves on the castle; the emperor steps onto the balcony and speaks to his people:

"A difficult hour fell over Germany today. We are in deepest peace, in the truest sense of the word, assailed by the envy of our enemy who surrounds us. Throughout my reign I have protected and kept the peace. Now they put the sword in my hand. But I hope to take it back with honor. Immeasurable sacrifices of goods and

blood will be imposed on us, but we will bear them. I know that. We will show the opponent what it means to close Germany

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irritate And now I commend you to God. Go to church, pray to God to grant victory to the German army and the German cause."

These were thoughts that moved every German in their hearts; and each of them swore loyalty to the fatherland anew in this holy hour. Waves of people sang German songs in front of the chancellor's palace, and the streets only emptied after midnight.

During the afternoon of the next day, the word "mobilization" falls on Unter Den Linden. A gentleman coming from the castle in a carriage calls it out to the crowd; Newspaper editions confirm it, everyone repeats it to the other, the word "mobilization" sounds a thousand times. It is like jubilation and relief after the restrained tension, but also a recognition of the full weight of this word. All the bells are ringing, the crowds are pouring into the churches to the song: "A strong castle is our God, a good defense and weapons!"

The war with Russia brought simultaneously that with France, her ally, which since 1870 had given unrestrained thoughts of revenge for its defeat and had stirred up this thought wherever it could.

And on August 4, the real author emerged from hiding, England, which had secretly supported the Russian warmongers and promised help to the French.

Germany had to deal with three strong enemies; the seriousness of the situation was clear; but with inner unity one could look forward to the future.

"I no longer know any parties, I only know Germans," the Kaiser had said; and the Social Democrats also vowed: "We will not abandon the fatherland in the hour of danger!"

"Germany has never been conquered when it was united!"

On August 5, the Emperor issued a decree on the renewal of the Iron Cross. A day of prayer and repentance was celebrated throughout Prussia on this day; in Berlin all the churches were overcrowded.

On the following day the Kaiser addressed an appeal to the German army and navy:

Berlin, Castle, August 6, 1914.

"After forty-three years of peace, I am calling the German armed forces to arms.

Our most sacred goods, the fatherland, our own hearth, must be protected against nefarious attacks.

Enemies all around! That is the hallmark of the situation. A difficult struggle, great sacrifices are ahead of us.

I trust that the old warlike spirit still lives in the German people, that mighty warlike spirit that attacks the enemy wherever it finds him, no matter what the cost; who has always been the fear and terror of our enemies.

I trust in you, you German soldiers! In each of you lives the fierce, unconquerable will to victory. Each of you knows when you must die like a hero.

Remember our great, glorious past!

Remember that you are Germans!

God help us!"

Wilhelm.

It was lively in the barracks. According to the "mobilization appointment calendar" the regiment had a battalion of the Res.-Inf.-Regts in addition to the field regiment. 55, two companies of the 4th Guards-Inf.-Brig.-Ersatz-Btls., a medical company and several columns. In this calendar it was precisely determined what had to happen on each day in the progressing mobilization; and just as it was planned, everything happened according to plan.

The reservists, who streamed together from all parts of the Reich, were fetched from the station with music; They were greeted with jubilation, enthusiastically they marched through the streets towards their old barracks; there they were cared for and accommodated in the schools close to the barracks. The next day they were medically examined and divided up into the various formations and companies in the "team allocation offices". Many had the desire to go into the field with the company in which their father had fought in the war against their hereditary enemy; such wishes could usually be fulfilled will. Worse, however, were the crews who could not be hired because, in the opinion of the doctors, they did not seem up to the exertion; with tears in their eyes, they begged to be taken along.

Then it was time to get dressed; the loveliest coats and trousers hung there in the chambers, all in field gray; plus linen, boots and the pieces of equipment.

After everything had been missed, small exercises began in the companies over the next few days. Everyone was also given the opportunity to shoot themselves in with their guns.

On August 8th there were talks in the churches. Many people had come to Holy Communion with their mothers and brides.

There was such a general, holy enthusiasm as it could not have been more glorious in 1813.

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On August 7th the officer corps sat in the mess for the last time. There were the offspring of the noble families whose ancestors had served the King of Prussia from time immemorial; none blessed with worldly goods, but all simply brought up to the old Prussian concept of duty, full of ideals for the high profession, to protect throne and fatherland; supplemented by reserve officers, born of the same spirit and vying with the career officers; for the most part still connected to the active officer corps from their common home in Coblenz.

The previous commander, Colonel v. Below, banged on the glass and spoke the following words:

"The moment has come when what we have been preparing for over the years is to be fulfilled. Now that His Majesty is calling on us to fight the enemies who are threatening our fatherland, we are told: "Come on the enemy!" Our high boss, the Grand Duchess of Baden. and we want to do honor to our exalted chief, Queen Augusta, who looks down on the regiment in blessing from above. so that it can also be said of us as it was then: They have remained true to their oath and their promise as their mother's sons and have done their duty! We pledge our unbreakable loyalty to our last breath with the cry: His Majesty the Emperor, our most gracious warlord, hurrah!

The news that had just arrived of the fall of the first forts at Liège increased enthusiasm; in happy anticipation they spoke of the future. Lieutenant v. Westernhagen said: "If we come back here, we will have to move a little closer together!"

He was right. Of the 75 present at the time. Officers of the regiment never returned! But there is not one among them who has not done his duty to the last; and with that her highest purpose in life was fulfilled!

Various changes occurred in the officer corps with the mobilization:

The previous commander, who was admired by all, Colonel v. Below, to whom the regiment owes its excellent military training, was appointed commander of the 15th Reserve Infantry Brigade; his place was taken by Lieutenant Colonel v. Walther, previously with the staff of the 4th Guards Regiment on foot.

Wartime List of Officers of the Regiment.

The [[Stellenbesetzung of the Field Regiment was as follows:

Regimental Commander: Obstlt. v. Walther,
Regimental Adjutant: Oblt. v. Gerstein-Hohenstein,
Ordonnance Officer: Lt. v. Holtzbrink.

I. Battalion.

Commander: Major Frhr. v. Lyncker,
Adjutant: Lt. Sixt v. Armin (Hans-Heinrich),
Commissary Officer: Lt. d. R. Krull (Friedrich),
Battalion Doctor: St.-Arzt Dr. Koschel (gleichzeitig Regts-Arzt), Oberarzt Dr. Singer,
Paymaster: Feldzahlmeister Will.

1st Company: Hptm. v. Knobelsdorff-Brenckenhoff, Lt. v. Hennigs, Lt. d. R. Dietze, Lt. d. R. Walter, Lt. d. R. Lammers (Bernard),

2nd Company: Oblt. d. R. Wiegand, Lt. v. Krosigk, Lt. d. R. Latza, Lt. d. R. Krull (Hubert), Lt. d. R. Frick,

3rd Company: Hptm. v. Henning auf Schönhoff, Lt. d. R. Fischer, Lt. v. Unger (Wolf), Lt. d. R. Bonatz, Lt. d. R. Herold,

4th Company: Hptm. v. Franke, Lt. d. R. Loderhose, Lt. Frhr. v. Blanckart (Ferdinand), Lt. d. R. Steckhan, Fähnr. Frhr. v. Blanckart (Friedrich).

II. Battalion.

Commander: Major v. Dassel,
Adjutant: Lt. Sixt v. Armin (Friedrich-Wilhelm),
Commissary Officer: Lt. d. R. Raabe,
Battalion Doctor: St.-Arzt Dr. Henius, Feldunterarzt Wachenfeld,
Paymaster.: Feldzahlm. Lohmann,

5th Company: Hptm. v. Barton gen. v. Stedman, Lt. d. R. Averdunk, Lt. v. Schubka, Lt. d. R. Krienitz, Lt. d. R. Schroeder,

6th Company: Hptm. Houben, Lt. d. R. Püschel, Lt. v. Dickhuth-Harrach, Lt. d. R. Rohrbeck,

7th Company: Hptm. v. Laer, Lt. Cleve, Lt. d. R. Becker, Lt. d. R. Gaul, Lt. d. R. Gerlach,

8th Company: Hptm. v. Voß, Lt. Gr. v. Bethusy-Huc, Lt. d. R. Kuchert, Lt. d. R. Tropp, Lt. d. R. Biedermann.

Fusilier Battalion.

Commander: Major v. Behr,
Adjutant: Lt. v. Unger (Karl),
Commissary Officer: Lt. d. R. Wild,
Battalion Doctor: St.-Arzt d. R. Dr. Hartog, Feldunterarzt Hallermann,
Paymaster: Feldzahlmeister Kiefner,

9th Company: Hptm. v. Gaertner, Lt. d. L. Lammers (Aloys), Lt. v. d. Malsburg, Lt. d. R. Berndt, Lt. d. R. Bielig,

10th Company: Hptm. Gr. v. der Schulenburg-Wolfsburg, Lt. d. R. Kirschmann, Lt. v. Suter, Lt. d. R. Wegener, Lt. d. R. Brose,

11th Company: Hptm. d. R. Graven, Lt. d. R. Lammers (Clemens), Lt. v. Pannewitz, Lt. d. R. Steinchen, Lt. d. R. Klein,

12th Company: Hptm. v. Kühlewein, Lt. d. R. Zumloh, Et. v. Gerftein-Hohenftein, Lt. d. R. ih Ludwig, Lt. d. R. Gerhardi, Lt. d. L. Lehmann,

Machine Gun Company: Hptm. v. Bernuth (Carl), Lt. v. Bernuth (Felix), Lt. d. R. v. Broecher, Lt. v. Westernhagen.

The permanent Feldwebel were:

Regimental Clerk: Feldw. Budach,
Battalion Clerk: J. Batl.: Feldw. Günther,
II. Btl.: Feldw. Voigt,
F.-Btl.: Feldw. Mixa,
Company-Feldwebel: 1. Comp.: Feldw. Lipski,
2nd Comp.: Feldw. Scholz,
3rd Comp.: Feldw. Claaßen,
4th Comp.: Feldw. Fuge,
5th Comp.: Feldw. Wagner,
6th Comp.: Feldw. Hoffmann,
7th Comp.: Feldw. Pusch,
8th Comp.: Feldw. Berkigt,
9th Comp.: Feldw. Krohn,
10th Comp.: Feldw. Krüger,
11th Comp.: Feldw. Thormann,
12th Comp.: Feldw. Rübener,
Machine Gun Company: Feldw. Eckelt.

From the active officers of the Regiment were reassigned:

Major v. Wißmann, die Hauptleute v. Widekind, v. Pilgrim, v. Obernitz (Friedrich), v. Priem, Oblt. v. Oidtman, Lt. v. Trauwitz-Hellwig to Res.-Inf.-Regt. 55;
Oblt. v. Roon to the Res.-Inf.-Regt. 15;
Major v. Pommer Esche to 1. Guards-Ref.-Inf.-Regt.;
Major v. d. Hardt zum 3. Guards-Inf.-Brig.-Ersatz-Btl.;
Hptm. v. Plessen and Oblt. v. Wietersheim in the Generalstab;
Hptm. v. Schauroth as Adjutant to the 6. Guards-Inf.-Brigade;
Hptm. v. Obernitz (Wilhelm) as pilot to Flieger- Abt. 30;
Oblt. v. Strubberg als Adjutant to 26th Res.-Inf.-Brigade;
Oblt. v. Wedel (Hubertus) as Ordonnanz-Offz. to 3rd Guards-Inf.-Division;
Oblt. v. Unger (Fritz) as Ordonnance Officer to 4th Guards-Inf.-Brigade;
Oblt. Frhr. v. Maercken zu Geerath to the [[Linienkdtr. Danzig, then Guards-Gren.-Regt. 5;
Oblt. v. Bornstedt to the Flieger-Abt. 1 of the Guards Corps;
Lt. Frhr. v. Kettler to Flieger-Abt. 30.

Remaining with the Ersatz-Battalion were Hauptleute v. Oidtman and Diether Prinz zu Ysenburg, the Leutenants v. Reneße, v. Wedel and v. Baumbach.

Of these officers who had been assigned, the following died apart from the regiment: Major v. Pomeranian ash, Hauptmann v. Oidtman, the Oblts. v. Strubberg, v. Roon, Mrs. v. Maercken, v. Bornstedt and Lt. v. Renesse.

Commanding General of the Guard Corps was General of the Infantry Frhr. v. Plettenberg, Chief Colonel Lt. v. d. Schulenburg. The 2nd Guards Infantry Division was commanded by Lieutenant General v. Winckler, the 4th Guards Infantry Brigade (Emperor Franz and Queen Augusta regiments) Major General v. Gontard.

On August 9, after the mobilization was complete, roll call of the regiment took place on the Tempelhof field: each battalion consisted of 25 officers, 1050 men and 60 horses.

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There the battalions stood, equipped for war, in a model order, firmly joined; these big, strong, healthy ones people from all regions of the empire; bright eyes, all inspired by one wish: to stand up for their threatened fatherland.

After a short speech by the regiment commander, the oldest Augustan present, Excellency Frhr. v. Hammerstein, the comrade-in-arms of 1866 and 1870, with the Iron Cross on his chest that we so longed for, down the ranks of the regiment, blessing everyone in a loud voice with the words: "God be with you!"

With a bang, the battalions move in again: the regiment is ready!